UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2001/NGO/5
16 January 2001

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

Written statement*/ submitted by the Catholic Women's League Australia, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 January 2001]

*/ This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE. *200-0249*

ENG

In October/November 1999 Catholic Women's League of Australia Inc (CWLA) combined with the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) to prepare a joint response to the survey circulated by the High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of the preparation for the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance planned for 2001.

CWLA and ACSJC welcomed the opportunity not only to draw attention to problems connected with racism in Australia, but also to some positive developments in attempts to address these problems.

CWLA would like to inform the Commissioner that in 1999 the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission (ACSWC) and the Australian Conference of leaders of Religious Institutes has done further research in response to the Stolen Generations Inquiry and produced a **National Directory of Records of Catholic Organizations Caring for Children from Separated Families** entitled **"A Piece of the Story".**

Mick Dodson in the Forword said "...Incentives like ***"A Piece of the Story"*** will go a long way in helping people who were associated with the many homes, orphanages and schools run through the Catholic Church. Not only is the publication an acknowledgement of responsibility, it is an acceptance of that responsibility. Above all it provides part of the solution. This publication is a positive step towards reconciliation and justice. He went on to say "...I will follow the implementation of the initiatives undertaken by these organizations of the Catholic Church in assisting indigenous peoples with records that could help establish their identity and sense of belonging...".

The ACSWC also lodged a submission to a Federal Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into The Stolen Generations in March 2000. This submission repeats many of the concerns raised in its 1996 submission to the Human Rights & Equal Opportunities Commission Inquiry. I am informed that this latest submission will be accessible on the ACSWC web site in the near future.

The Submission to the Human rights and Equal opportunity Commission, "***National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children From Their Families"*** November 1996 and **National Directory of Records of Catholic Organizations Caring for Children from Separated Families** ***"A Piece of the Story"*** November 1999 are available immediately on ACSWC website at http://www.acswc.org.au.

CWLA offers this research as an example of positive steps that have been taken in response to the survey circulated by the High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of the preparation for the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance planned for 2001.